

## Community resources

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*courage is contagious*

## Viewing cable 07BEIRUT963, LEBANON: GOL CLOSE TO SUBMITTING TRIBUNAL JUDGE

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

### Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

### Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#07BEIRUT963**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
<a href="#">07BEIRUT963</a>	<a href="#">2007-06-28 15:09</a>	<a href="#">2011-08-30 01:44</a>	<a href="#">CONFIDENTIAL</a>	<a href="#">Embassy Beirut</a>

Appears in these articles:

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BEIRUT 000963

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/28/2017

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SUBJECT: LEBANON: GOL CLOSE TO SUBMITTING TRIBUNAL JUDGE  
NOMINEES TO UNITED NATIONS

Classified By: Ambassador Jeffrey D. Feltman, Reasons: Section 1.4 (b)  
and (d)

¶1. (C) Justice Minister Charles Rizk provided Ambassador on June 28, 2007 with a list of names of twelve Lebanese judges the GOL intends to nominate to the UN for selection for the four seats on Special Tribunal. He said all twelve have agreed to have their names put forward. The GOL has its preferred four nominees. Rizk indicated those on the list he gave the Ambassador and the GOL will discreetly inform UN Legal Advisor Michel. The four include a Sunni, a Maronite Christian, a Greek Catholic and a Greek Orthodox. Rizk also gave the Ambassador the names of the GOL's two nominees for the one Deputy Prosecutor position; it has no preference which of the two the UN selects. One is a Sunni and one a Maronite, so if the UN were concerned about confessional balance among the preferred judges, it could select a deputy prosecutor to correct that.

¶2. (C) Rizk said the two lists now go to PM Siniora, who is out of the country and expected to approve them when he

returns, and then on to the UN.

13. (C) Below are the names of the nominees (Note: strictly protect. These persons are at risk of being threatened or assassinated for agreeing to act as Tribunal judges).

The four preferred nominees are:

Mr. Ralf Riachi  
Mr. Choucri Sader  
Mr. Akram Baassiri  
Mr. Saad Jabbour

The eight other nominees are:

Mr. Afif Chamseddine  
Mr. Samir Alieh  
Mr. Joseph Maamari  
Mr. Nadim Abdelmalak  
Mr. Walid El-Akoum  
Mr. Tannous Mechleb  
Mme. Micheline Braid  
Mr. Ali Ibrahim

The two nominees for deputy prosecutor are:

Jocelyn Tabet, Maronite  
Ghassan Oueidat, Sunni

14. (C) Comment: While the Lebanese did not move quite as quickly in completing their lists as Rizk promised IO A/S Silverberg at the beginning of June, it is still good news that the Higher Judicial Council has made its recommendations for the judges and that Rizk has made his recommendations regarding the deputy prosecutor. When PM Siniora returns to Lebanon from abroad, we will push on what is presumably an open door to get these lists forwarded to New York ASAP. Regarding the judges, Ralf Riachi and Choucri Sadr, presumably, are shoe-ins for the UN. According to all reports we have heard, they forged extremely good relations with UN/OLA chief Nicolas Michel during the negotiations of the statutes for the Special Tribunal for Lebanon. We do not know the other two judges on the preferred list, but Rizk assured us that they are highly reputable. As for the proposed candidates for the deputy prosecutor slot, both Tabet and Oueidat are well regarded in legal circles. Tabet, we note, is very close personally to Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Elias Murr (who, of course, is one of the victims of the assassination attempts, having survived a car bomb on July 12, 2005).

15. (C) Comment, continued: As noted above, it is important to keep these names confidential, to lower the security risks against the candidates. We hope that Sadr and Riachi are already keeping a low profile, since it is a common assumption that will be nominated. In a sad commentary on the current security situation in Lebanon, Riachi told us recently that, as an unmarried bachelor with no children and no close relatives in Lebanon, he is more dispensable than judges with family obligations -- and thus Riachi concludes that he is an easy choice for the risks associated with the tribunal.

FELTMAN